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## GEOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PART III: POPULATION



CIA/RR CR L-61-1, Part III

January 1961

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS**

DOCUMENT NO. 7  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1989  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE 26/8/79 REVIEWER: 019360

Approved For Release 2000/08/25 : CIA-RDP79-01009A002700010012-9

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PART III: POPULATION

I. General

In 1950, the date of the last census, the population of the Dominican Republic was 2,135,872, with an almost even sex ratio (males 50.13 percent and females 49.87 percent) and a rural-urban ratio heavily in favor of the countryside (76 to 24 percent). The estimated population as of 1 July 1960 was 2,712,000, with the same sex and urban-rural ratios as in 1950.

Despite the 200 percent increase in population since 1920 and the increase in the density of population from 18 to 44 inhabitants per square kilometer in the last 40 years, the growth of cities has been slow while the population of rural areas has burgeoned. During the period 1935-50, only three of the larger cities -- Ciudad Trujillo, Santiago, and San Francisco -- had a rate of increase greater than that of the nation as a whole, the rest had relatively small percentage increases. As a result, only Ciudad Trujillo and Santiago are worthy of the name "city," and very few urban areas have populations in excess of 10,000 inhabitants.

The leading populated places, their 1950 populations and their estimated populations as of 1 July 1958, the latest available, are given in Table 1 (see page 2).

Table 1

Population of the Leading Dominican Cities a/

<u>Name</u>	<u>1970 Census</u>	<u>1978 Estimate</u>
<u>Ciudad Trujillo</u>	181,553	316,292
<u>Santiago de los Caballeros</u>	56,558	69,060
<u>San Pedro de Macoris</u>	19,876	22,071
<u>San Francisco de Macoris</u>	16,083	22,977
<u>San Felipe de Puerto Plata</u>	14,843	17,412
<u>Santa Cruz de Barahona</u>	14,654	18,043
<u>Concepción de La Vega</u>	14,200	17,911
<u>La Romana</u>	14,074	20,416
<u>Bani</u>	10,210	12,500 (approx.)

a. The common or conventional form of the city name is underlined.

II. Distribution and Density

A. General Distribution Pattern

Some 65 percent of the Dominican population is concentrated in a zone that covers 40 percent of the land area of the republic. The zone trends north-northwestward from the south coast between Ciudad Trujillo and Bani to the north coast in the area of Puerto Plata and Luperón and includes the cities of Santiago, San Francisco de Macoris, and La Vega in addition to Ciudad Trujillo, Bani, and Puerto Plata (see Map 29745). Within this zone the population density averages 73 persons per square kilometer in contrast to 44 persons for the nation as a whole. The most densely populated part of the country is the Cibao, the rich agricultural region in the northern part of the zone. Rural densities in the area between Santiago and San Francisco de Macoris are in excess of 100 inhabitants per square kilometer. In general, densities decrease eastward and westward from the central zone, and in the southwestern and south-eastern extremities of the country, densities fall into the range category of 0-9 persons per square kilometer. Exceptions to this general

pattern occur in the hinterlands of the ports of Cabrera, San Pedro de Macoris, and Barahona, where densities are fairly high.

**B. Empty Areas**

Six areas within the Dominican Republic have very sparse populations; and, if official Dominican maps can be believed, they are either unpopulated or have populations of less than 1 person per square kilometer. Three are located at the mouths of rivers -- the Yaque del Norte, Yaque del Sur, and Yuna. The first two areas are partially covered by mangrove; the third has a mangrove cover where it borders on the Bahía de Samaná and elsewhere a rather dense selva (tropical rain forest). The fourth is the eastern end of the republic, including the islands of Samaná and Santa Catarina. In 1950 the former island had a population of 400, whereas the latter was uninhabited. The fifth area is the crest and southern slopes of the Cordillera Central from approximately the center of the country westward to the Haitian border, and the sixth is the desertic and semiarid southern slopes of the Sierra de Bahoruco and adjoining coastal plains in the southwestern corner of the country. This last area includes the uninhabited Isla de Beata.

The 1950 area, population, and density of population figures of the various civil divisions of the republic, adjusted to incorporate new divisions created since 1954, are given in Table 2 (see page 4).

Table 2

Area and Density of Population by Civil Divisions,  
Census of 1950

PROVINCIA Municipio Distrito Municipal	Area in Square Kilometers	Population 1950	Density of Population per Square Kilometer	
			Total	Rural
DISTRITO NACIONAL	1,389	241,228	174	42
ALTAGRACIA, LA	4,062	71,045	17	13
La Romana a/	978	27,172	28	13
Higüey	2,534	42,471	17	15
San Rafael del Yuma b/	550	4,664	8	8
AZUA	2,215	50,176	23	18
Azua	1,556	36,784	23	18
Puerto Viejo c/	619	13,382	22	18
Padre Las Casas				
BAHORUCO	1,376	39,858	29	20
Neiba	669	21,359	32	25
José Trujillo Valdez	269	7,164	27	14
Tamayo	438	11,368	26	16
BARAHONA	1,490	58,556	39	20
Barahona	485	29,087	60	29
Vicente Noble	196	5,509	28	15
Cabral	301	12,230	41	13
Enriquillo d/	426	6,455	15	10
Paraiso	82	5,230	64	49
BENEFACTOR	3,561	106,802	30	24
San Juan	2,657	60,632	23	18
El Cercado	389	18,763	48	41
Las Matas de Farfán	515	27,407	53	45

- a. The municipio containing the capital of the provincia is listed immediately below the provincia name. The municipio capital has the same name as the municipio in which it lies.
- b. The names of distritos municipales are indented and listed immediately below the municipio to which they are administratively subordinate.
- c. Distrito municipal created in 1959. Area and population figures are not available and estimates are not possible.
- d. Boundary changes have occurred since 1950. The figures for area and population are estimates.



PROVINCIA Municipio <u>Distrito Municipal</u>	Area in Square Kilometers	Population 1950	Density of Population per Square Kilometer	
			<u>Total</u>	<u>Rural</u>
<b>DUARTE</b>	1,292	117,191	91	70
San Francisco de Macoris	577	72,275	125	93
Castillo	104	14,437	138	125
Hostos	77	3,679	48	39
Pimentel	147	10,559	72	44
Villa Riva	387	16,048	41	36
<b>ESPAILLAT</b>	972	103,778	107	89
Moca	492	74,098	151	123
José Contreras	40	8,893	222	182
Gaspar Hernández	442	20,787	47	43
<b>INDEPENDENCIA</b>	2,011	20,801	10	7
Jimaní	511	3,191	6	5
La Descubierta	374	5,278	14	11
Postre Río c/ Duvergé	1,126	12,332	11	6
<b>JULIA MOLINA</b>	1,268	54,922	43	36
Julia Molina	842	33,457	40	32
Cabrera	225	15,218	68	60
Río San Juan	141	6,247	44	35
<b>LIBERTADOR</b>	890	26,470	30	25
Dajabón	303	8,993	30	24
Loma de Cabrera	278	13,832	50	43
Restauración	308	3,645	12	10
<b>MONTECRISTI d/</b>	1,613	42,598	26	19
Montecristi	441	10,549	24	14
Guayubín d/	668	17,227	26	24
Pepillo Salcedo	204	4,054	20	6
Villa Isabel	300	10,768	36	26
<b>PEDERNALES d/</b>	1,793	3,253	2	1
Pedernales	463	1,762	4	2
Oviedo d/	1,330	1,491	1	-1

PROVINCIA Municipio Distrito Municipal	Area in Square Kilometers	Population 1970	Density of Population per Square Kilometer	
			Total	Rural
PUERTO PLATA	1,881	136,002	72	57
Puerto Plata	929	61,530	66	45
Bosua c/	252	28,654	114	103
Altamira	173	12,028	70	58
Imbert	527	33,790	64	57
Luperón	494	57,813	117	100
SALCEDO	142	31,414	221	100
Salcedo	62	8,292	132	121
Villa Tapia	290	18,107	62	58
Tenares	989	28,341	29	22
SAMANA	522	19,007	36	31
Samana	466	9,334	20	13
Sanchez	1,099	50,296	46	42
SANCHEZ RAMIREZ	690	37,866	55	51
Cotuí	169	6,859	41	38
Fantino	240	5,571	23	22
Cevicos	1,253	64,205	51	32
SAN PEDRO DE MACORÍS	362	36,778	102	41
San Pedro de Macoris	634	20,064	32	29
Los Llanos	257	7,363	29	26
Ramon Santana	1,778	33,013	18	16
SAN RAFAEL	354	13,998	40	32
Elías Pina	244	7,484	31	29
Hondo Valle	515	5,857	11	10
Bánica	675	5,674	8	8
Pedro Santana	3,051	228,370	75	54
SANTIAGO	774	154,073	199	122
Santiago	286	22,117	77	73
Licey al Medio c/	97	16,672	172	149
Villa Bisonó c/	1,896	35,508	19	18
Villa González c/				
Jánico				
Peña				
San José de las Matas				

PROVINCIA Municipio <u>Distrito Municipal</u>	Area in Square Kilometers	Population 1950	Density of Population per Square Kilometer	
			<u>Total</u>	<u>Rural</u>
SANTIAGO RODRÍGUEZ	1,020	32,690	32	28
Santiago Rodríguez	808	27,087	34	30
Monción	212	5,603	26	22
SEIBO, EL	2,989	97,710	33	28
El Seibo	1,109	50,766	46	41
Hato Mayor	650	31,708	49	40
Miches	462	4,932	11	7
Sabana de la Mar	768	10,304	13	11
TRUJILLO	3,743	164,674	44	37
San Cristóbal	894	66,540	74	60
Sabana Grande	32	3,544	111	78
Yaguajay	106	14,374	135	123
Bajos de Haina c/				
Villa Altagracia	406	18,459	45	37
Bayaguana	896	12,904	14	13
Monte Plata	1,072	22,867	21	19
Sabana Grande de Boyá c/				
Yamasa	537	25,986	48	45
TRUJILLO VALDEZ	1,622	81,911	50	38
Barí	732	44,499	61	44
Nizao	48	5,690	119	75
San José de Ocoa	842	31,722	38	32
VALVERDE d/	955	36,527	38	29
Valverde	247	19,462	79	48
Esperanza d/	708	17,065	24	22
Laguna Salada c/				
VEGA, LA	3,517	185,575	53	44
La Vega	902	105,483	117	94
Cayetano Germosén	24	3,680	153	125
Constanza	880	14,737	17	15
Jarabacoa	721	21,810	30	26
Monseñor Nouel	991	39,865	40	33

III. Racial Composition and Distribution Patterns

A. General Patterns

According to the 1950 census the racial composition of the republic was as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Mixed . . . .	60.36
White . . . .	28.14
Negro . . . .	11.47
Oriental . . . .	00.03

The mixed group -- an intermixture of white, Negro, and Indian -- is evenly distributed over the island and forms the bulk of the rural population. The whites are found, for the most part, in the cities. The appreciable number of Negroes in the total population (40 percent or more) are concentrated in the sugar-growing areas along the south and southeast coasts. The Orientals, mostly Japanese, are fishermen, truck farmers, and agricultural workers who live in small groups scattered throughout the country.

B. Ethnic Groups and Movement

In 1935, the date of the next-to-last census, the white population amounted to only 13 percent of the total for the country. The relative increase of the white population from 13 to 28 percent in 1950 can be accounted for by the government-encouraged immigration of whites -- primarily Spanish and secondarily stateless European refugees -- and by the strict control of immigration from black Haiti.

The largest groups of non-Dominicans are Spaniards, who are likely to be transients, and Haitians, who are seasonal workers. Spaniards

immigrate in large numbers and, although encouraged to settle as permanent Dominican citizens, return to Spain in almost equally large numbers. In fact, net migration from Spain in some years is recorded in negative numbers. Haitians are allowed to enter as agricultural laborers, but all return to Haiti when their farm work is finished. Most of the Haitians arrive in January and February and return during the period from May through August, the largest group leaving in August. Other large groups of non-Dominicans are British and Dutch citizens. All of these immigrants are migratory farm workers, and most of those in the last two groups are Negroes from nearby British and Dutch possessions. Although there is a small Jewish agricultural colony at Sosúa, most of the white immigrants have settled in the cities, especially in Ciudad Trujillo.

#### IV. Religion

##### A. General Character

The official religion of the Dominican Republic is Roman Catholic, but other religions are freely tolerated. The 1950 census listed 2,098,474 Catholics, 30,538 Protestants, and 463 Jews.

The Vatican is represented by a Papal Nuncio and the Dominican church is ruled by an archbishop, the "Primate of America," whose seat is in Ciudad Trujillo. Other sources refer to him as "Primate of the Indies." The two bishops in the Dominican Republic have their seats in Santiago and La Vega. Although 98 percent of the population is nominally Roman Catholic the Church is influential and important only in the cities. In the country the people see a priest only once or twice a year, and a great number of them are not baptized and are neither married nor buried by the Church.

The religion of the rural population is generally a mixture of Catholic teachings and superstitions typical of an illiterate peasantry. "The Brotherhood of the Congo" is found in several areas; and voodoo services, although forbidden, are held and well attended. The candle-light services and wakes for the dead; the calvarios, or groups of three crosses along roads and at crossroads; and the rosarios, or processions, show evidences of both Catholic origin and the admixture of local superstitions.

The Dominican campesino, or countryman, lives a simple life close to nature and is much in awe of its occasional violence. He wears amulets to ward off disease and accident and uses fetishes and charms to protect his wife, children, and livestock. Such talismans are obtained from the local voodoo priest or priestess.

B. Holidays

In the Dominican Republic holidays occur in every month of the year except July and, because Easter and the holidays measured from it are movable, roughly every fifth April. Legal holidays, both religious and patriotic, are as follows:

January 1, 6 (Epiphany), 21, and 26

February 26

March 19

Easter Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter

May 1

Ascension Day (the 40th day after Easter)

Whitsunday (the 50th day after Easter)

June 29

August 15 and 16

September 24

October 12, 24

November 1

December 8 and 25

#### V. Public Health

Sanitary conditions in the republic, at least in the urban areas, have improved greatly during the last 2 decades. As a result the Dominican crude death rate has dropped to 8.5 per 1,000, a rate much lower than those of Haiti and Guatemala and somewhat lower than those of the U.S., Mexico, Jamaica, and the countries of Central America other than Guatemala. Among the poorer class, especially in the countryside, the health level is not high. In this class, large numbers of the people are debilitated by uncinariasis (ancylostomiasis), an anemia resulting from hookworms. It is estimated that 35 percent of the population suffers from malaria and that from [REDACTED]

25X6

25X6

[REDACTED]

Slightly less than half of the yearly deaths (excluding infant mortality) in the country are caused by infectious and parasitic diseases. The most lethal of them are gastroenteric diseases (primarily amoebic and bacillary dysentery), malaria, tuberculosis (resulting primarily from malnutrition), pneumonia, bronchitis, typhoid fever, and whooping cough. Elemental precautions such as boiling water, using mosquito bars, wearing shoes, and maintaining proper diet would provide effective protection against these diseases.

Medical facilities in the Dominican Republic are fair, and a campaign for continued improvement is in progress. The country has 52 public and 69 private hospitals and clinics, making a total of 121. About 10 percent of them, however, have fewer than 10 beds and another 10 percent have fewer than 20 beds. Included in the above total are 15 military and 7 maternity hospitals. The hospitals and some 15 antituberculosis and antivenereal-disease clinics are fairly well scattered throughout the country. Consequently, only the most inaccessible areas are without readily available medical attention. In addition the country has an insane asylum and a leprosarium in Nigua, just south of San Cristobal, and 18 other asylums, mostly for children and the aged, distributed over the republic.

#### VI. Occupational Structure

##### A. General Pattern

The inadequacy of Dominican statistics makes it difficult to determine the occupational structure of the country. One difficulty is that most of the rural women are half-time workers and many of the children part-time workers. Although 76 percent of the population is rural, it cannot be assumed that this percentage represents the relative numbers of agricultural workers in the country. A number of rural industries such as lime and charcoal burning and the making of brooms, hats and baskets are scattered throughout the country; and other nonagricultural activities such as the gathering of forest products, fishing, and rural trade and transportation services are full-time or part-time occupations of rural dwellers.



A very rough estimate of the occupational structure is given below:

<u>Type of Employment</u>	<u>Percent of Total Labor Force</u>
Agriculture	72
Commerce	9
Manufacturing	8
Communications and Transportation	2
Government	2
Professions	1
Services	6

The 78 percent of the people engaged in agriculture and services belongs overwhelmingly to mixed and Negro groups. In the other categories except the professions, the managerial and upper levels are white and the lowest echelons mixed and Negro. The professional people are overwhelmingly white.

B. Seasonal Employment

Strong seasonal movement of labor is limited to sugar-cane producing areas. Recruited migratory workers from Haiti and the British and Dutch possessions (much preferred to the Dominican mulatto) are employed in the labor-deficit areas, chiefly along the south coast from Barahona to San Pedro de Macoris and to a much lesser extent in the Provincia de Puerto Plata. Most of the migratory workers enter and leave the country during the first half of the calendar year, which includes the zafra or cane-cutting season.

In most other areas the harvesting and heavy farm work are accomplished by the cooperative effort of neighboring farmers who work in juntas without wages. A very small part of the total farm work is performed by laborers hired on a wage basis by the owners of large plantations or hired by small farmers for special tasks.

C. Wages

Official figures on wages and salaries have been published for Ciudad Trujillo only. The averages given below are taken from the 1950 census; figures for 1961 should be substantially higher, perhaps in the neighborhood of 10 percent.

Table 3

Selected Average Pay Rates in Ciudad Trujillo, 1950

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Pay in US Dollars a/ per 48-Hour Week</u>
<u>Males</u>	
Linotype operator	36.72
Electrician	35.32
Mechanic	19.92
Carpenter	17.52
Chauffeur	15.36
Cooks	15.12
Mechanic's assistant	12.72
Messenger	8.16
Unskilled labor	8.16
<u>Females</u>	
Stenographer	25.00 (est.)
Airline clerk	23.46
Telephone operator	16.80
Ticket seller (theater)	12.48
Bottle washer	4.56

a. The Dominican peso is at a par with the US dollar.

# VII. Literacy

In 1950, 56.7 percent of the population 10 years of age and older were illiterate. In the urban areas, 7 out of 10 were literate, whereas only 3 out of 10 in the countryside could read and write.

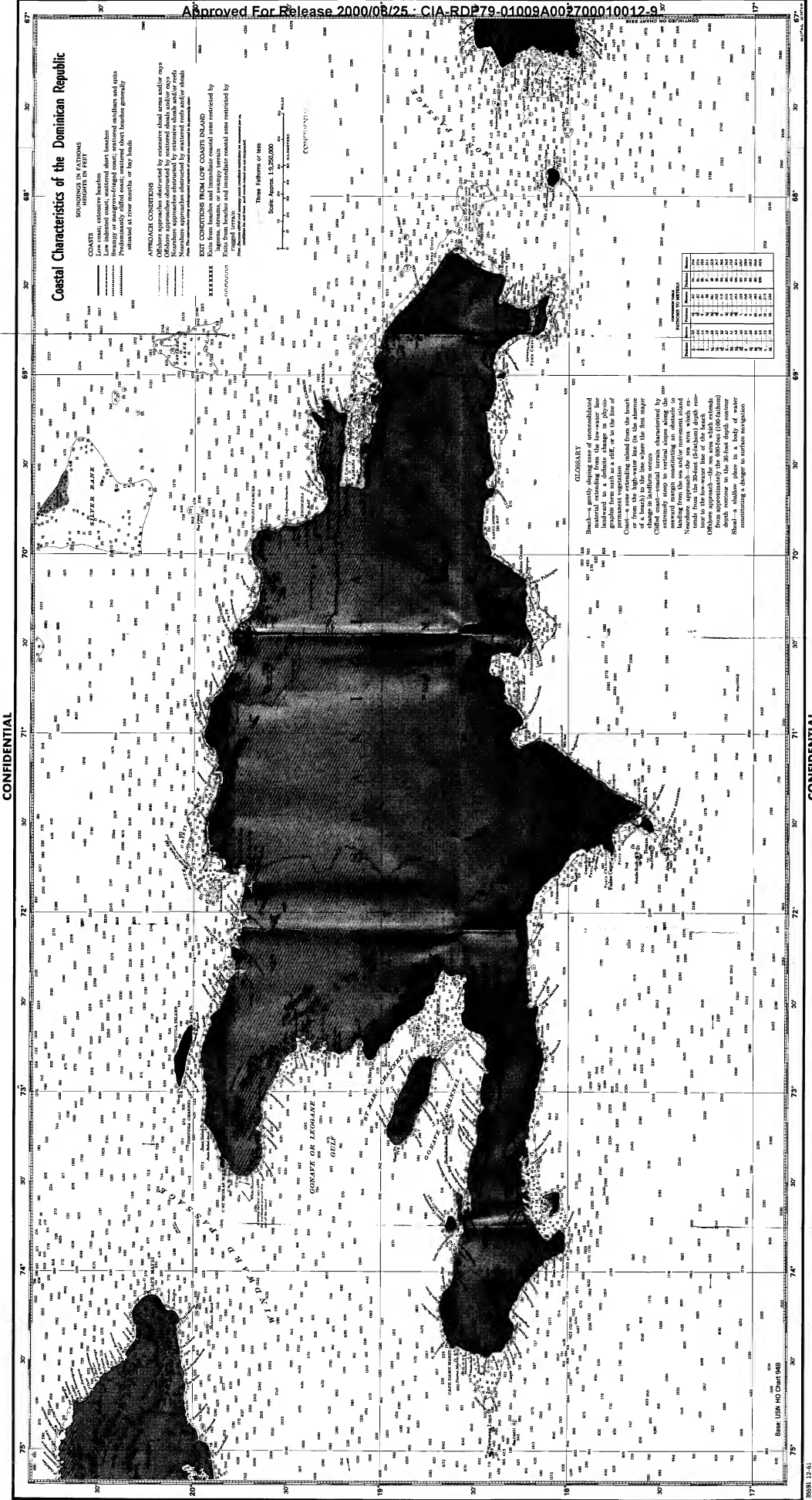
Paralleling the governmental campaign to improve the health of the island is one aimed at increasing and strengthening the educational facilities and reducing illiteracy. In the intercensal period 1935-50, the number of schools, instructors, and pupils doubled and illiteracy was cut by half. More than half of the rural schools, however, are "rudimentary" or "emergency" schools that at times have held three separate sessions or shifts a day. Furthermore, the curriculum of the emergency school is a little unusual in that 3 years are devoted chiefly to 3 subjects: reading, gardening, and chicken raising.

Educational improvements have continued throughout the past 10 years, and by the middle 1950's the educational situation was roughly as follows:

<u>Kind of School</u>	<u>Number of Schools</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
Rural emergency	1,210	66,055
Rural primary	917	98,408
Urban primary	292	81,549
Secondary	53	8,325
Vocational	123	7,947
Special	200	6,708
University	1	2,469

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